



Med-Alert

The 5th Brigade (HS) Newsletter

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THE COLONEL'S CORNER

ARMY KNOWLEDGE ONLINE ACCOUNTS NOW MANDATORY FOR ARMY RESERVISTS

WASHINGTON (August 27, 2001) -- Army Reserve soldiers and civilians will be required to establish Army Knowledge Online accounts as part of an effort to use information technology to improve our business processes.

"I want Army Reserve full time support soldiers and civilians to establish AKO accounts by 1 October 2001," said Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, Chief, Army Reserve, in a recent memo. "Troop Program Unit soldiers, Individual Mobilization Augmentees, and Individual Ready Reserve soldiers and contractors may register as opportunities are available."

A memo outlining the requirement was signed August 8 by Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White and Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Eric K. Shinseki. The memo details goals for Army Knowledge Management, a strategy to transform the Army into a "network-centric, knowledge-based" force. It is considered a key part of Army Transformation.

"This innovation is truly the start of communicating from the foxhole to the National Command Authority," said Lt. Col. Arthur Spearman, with the Chief Information Office, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve. "Army Reservists will have the capability to access relevant Army Information at the same time as other Department of Defense employees."

In the future, Army Reserve soldiers and civilians will no longer have to send away for copies of their personnel and pay records; they will be able to access them through an Army Knowledge Online account, officials said. Eventually, they will be able to view and update their personnel data on the Web, moving closer to an environmentally friendly "paperless" system.

All soldiers and civilians with AKO accounts will be given a military (.mil) e-mail account that they can use throughout their career and into retirement. The e-mail address will remain the same no matter where they are assigned.

To sign up for an Army Knowledge Online account go to <http://www.us.army.mil> and click on "I'm a New User" to register.

SGLI COVERAGE EXTENDED TO FAMILY MEMBERS BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER

WASHINGTON -- Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) will be extended to provide coverage to Army Reserve family members beginning November 1, 2001, based on provisions of the Veterans Opportunities Act of 2001.

Under the new provisions, spouses and children will be automatically covered if the Army Reserve member is an SGLI participant. The maximum automatic coverage is \$100,000 for a member's spouse, and the amount of coverage of a member's spouse cannot exceed the amount of coverage of the insuring member.

Premiums for coverage of a spouse will be charged based upon spouse's age and will range from 9 cents to 55 cents per \$1,000 of coverage. Children will be covered automatically for \$10,000, and no premiums will be charged the member.

For more information, visit the SGLI Web site at <http://www.insurance.va.gov/sglivgli/sglifam.htm>.

FROM THE HHD COMMANDER

Please welcome the following personnel to the command:

SSG Jose Aguilar Huerta (75H)

FROM THE SAA

All Brigade personnel will need to review and comply with the following items:

1. Review and complete the new SLGV for yourself and family (if applicable) with your unit clerk.
2. Obtain stickers for your vehicles to avoid delays when entering Ft. Sam Houston. Stickers can be obtained from the Provost Marshall's office during normal business hours (Monday – Friday).



3. Ensure that Family Care plans, wills, and power of attorneys are up-to-date and current. ID cards should also be current for family members.

ARMY RESERVE VOLUNTEERS

Currently the Army Reserve-Personnel Command (AR-PERSCOM) is only filling individual requirements coming from headquarters and agency levels. If you are an Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) or Troop Program Unit (TPU) member, please contact your chain of command.

TRANSFORMING AMEDD

The U.S. Army Medical Department (AMEDD), one of the world's largest health care systems, employs more than 50,000 full-time equivalents, delivers more than 1,000,000 days of inpatient care, and trains thousands of health care professionals each year. The AMEDD is also an organization bombarded by forces that make "business as usual" a battle plan for failure.

Today's reality challenges the AMEDD to do more work with fewer people in less time. Budgets are smaller and will wither in the future. Throughout the enterprise, workers suffer from information overload. The pace of change hastens while competition heightens.

Determined to remain at the cutting edge of health care delivery, the AMEDD's Center for Healthcare Education and Studies (CHES) implemented its first Knowledge Management initiative early in 1997.

AMEDD and the CHES leaders believe that Knowledge Management is an enterprise transformation strategy that will improve service to customers, increase enterprise efficiency and reduce operating cost.

Knowledge Management Focus

To survive and thrive, the AMEDD has identified five critical success factors:

1. Communicate effectively internally and externally
2. Adapt quickly and effectively
3. Foster and leverage innovation consistently
4. Improve organizational productivity
5. Manage organizational change effectively

The Vision

The AMEDD Knowledge Management vision is the blueprint that portrays these success factors. The vision is to leverage knowledge within the organization to become a high performing learning enterprise, optimized to address critical success factors for the future.

Several factors motivated AMEDD's leaders to use Knowledge Management as an enterprise transforming strategy. Too much time is spent either looking for or validating information and knowledge.

It is far too easy to repeat mistakes and far too difficult to repeat successes. Training, deployment, and sustainment are formidable challenges. An organization of learners is limited by the availability of what has been learned.

Combining new business practices and tools within three categories - technology, process, and people - the AMEDD has begun to reduce the time people spend seeking information and performing work.

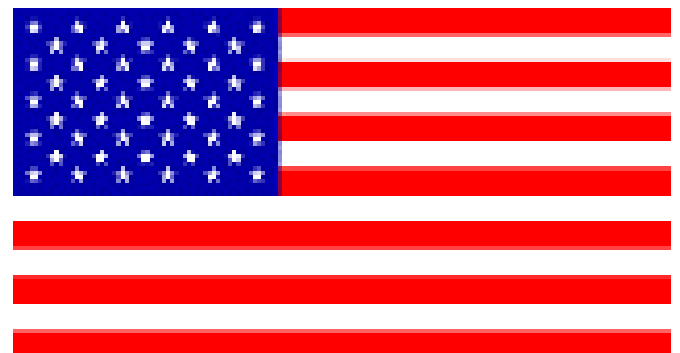
Lessons Learned from AMEDD pilot projects show that changing organizational culture is the most important, and most difficult, aspect of Knowledge Management.

Implementing new technology may be the easiest, but not necessarily the most effective, first step. Managing knowledge must be a natural part of how workers do their jobs, not an additional burden or task.

(Excerpt from the AMEDD Knowledge Exchange)

90-DAY EVENT CALENDAR

13-14 October	3457th and 10th Bn Drill
20-21 October	Hq's and PND Drill
20-21 October	October APFT





YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND

5th Brigade (HS)

COL Angel Padilla CSM Alfred Habelman

10th BN

MAJ James Hickey CSM Pascual Castro

3457th

LTC Floyd Priester CSM Vacant

PND

MAJ Mary Gomez CSM David Stading

HHD – 5th Brigade

CPT Mario Avila MSG Dan Carlin